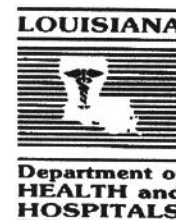




Kathleen Babineaux Blanco  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF LOUISIANA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS



Frederick P. Cerise, M.D., M.P.H.  
SECRETARY

May 7, 2007

Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman:

The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) is pleased to submit this letter of support for the Rural Health Care Pilot Program. DHH recognizes the importance of this grant application to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). It is an important step in our strategic plan that will assist our hospitals and clinics in improving their access to Health Information Technology.

The goal of the pilot program is to provide funding to support the construction of broadband networks and services provided over those networks which will support the Presidential Goal of providing all Americans with an EHR by 2014. Louisiana could benefit the most from this enhanced access to care resulting in improvements in the overall health of its population which now ranks last among all of the states in the nation according to a recent study produced by the United Health Foundation. (<http://www.unitedhealthfoundation.org/ahr2006/Findings>)

DHH believes these networks will bring benefits of innovative telehealth and in particular, telemedicine services to parts of Louisiana where the need for those benefits is most acute. This grant will help ensure that the health care providers in this state have access to the level of connectivity necessary to make strides toward improving the health of their patients.

Sincerely,

Roxane A. Townsend, M.D.  
Deputy Secretary

# Rural Hospital Coalition, Inc.

729 S. Acadian Thruway ♦ Baton Rouge, LA 70806 ♦ Phone (225) 389-9429 ♦ Fax (225) 387-0309 ♦ Email [larhc@aol.com](mailto:larhc@aol.com) ♦ [www.larhc.org](http://www.larhc.org)

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May 3, 2007

Roxanne Townsend, Deputy Secretary  
Department of Health & Hospitals  
628 North 4<sup>th</sup> St.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

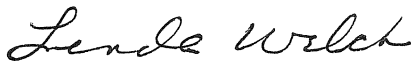
Dear Dr. Townsend:

The Rural Hospital Coalition (RHC) is pleased to submit this letter of support for the Rural Health Care Pilot Program. The RHC fully supports this submission of a grant application to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as it will assist our state's rural hospitals in improving their access to Health Information Technology.

The goal of this initiative is to establish a broadband network in Louisiana to provide both rural and urban providers with necessary connectivity to support the Presidential Goal of providing all Americans with an EHR by 2014. Louisiana could benefit the most from this enhanced access to care resulting in improvements in the overall health of its population, which now ranks last among all of the states in the nation according to a recent study produced by the United Health Foundation. (<http://www.unitedhealthfoundation.org/ahr2006/Findings>)

The RHC believes that if health outcomes are to be improved, providers at the local level must be given access to every tool necessary to insure the highest quality of care possible. This grant will help guarantee that the rural hospitals of this state have access to the level of connectivity necessary to make strides toward improving the health information exchange between providers.

Sincerely,



Linda Welch, President and CEO  
Rural Hospital Coalition

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Abbeville General  
Abrom Kaplan Memorial  
Acadia-St. Landry  
Allen Parish  
Assumption Community  
Avoyelles Community  
Beauregard Memorial  
Bunkie General

Byrd Regional  
Caldwell Memorial  
CHRISTUS Coushatta  
Citizen Medical  
DeQuincy Memorial  
DeSoto Regional  
Franklin Foundation  
Franklin Medical

Hardtner Medical  
Homer Memorial  
Hood Memorial  
Jackson Parish  
Jennings American Legion  
LaSalle General  
Madison Parish  
Morehouse General  
North Caddo Medical

Oakdale Community  
Pointe Coupee General  
Richardson Medical  
Richland Parish  
Riverland Medical  
Riverside Medical  
Sabine Medical  
South Cameron Memorial

Springhill Medical  
St. Charles Parish  
St. Helena Parish  
St. Martin Parish  
Tri-Ward General  
Union General  
West Carroll Memorial  
Winn Parish

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May 3, 2007

Roxanne Townsend, Deputy Secretary  
Department of Health & Hospitals  
628 North 4<sup>th</sup> St.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dear Roxanne Townsend:

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LRHA is a non-profit membership organization whose primary mission is to serve as an advocate for rural health, promoting improved health status and improvements to the health system for residents of rural Louisiana. The goal of Rural Health Care Pilot Program is to establish a broadband network in Louisiana to provide both rural and urban providers with necessary connectivity to support the Presidential Goal of providing all Americans with an EHR by 2014, therefore, I restate my interest in supporting the Rural Hospital Coalition's endeavor to secure funding from the FCC to assist hospitals with improving access to Health Information Technology.

The benefits from implementing Health Information Technology into Louisiana's rural hospitals can lead to the overall improvement of the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of our health care system. The Rural Health Care Pilot Program will help ensure that Louisiana hospitals have access to the level of connectivity necessary to make strides toward improving the health information exchange between providers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stacy Fontenot".

Stacy Fontenot, Executive Director  
Louisiana Rural Health Association

# Rural Hospital Coalition, Inc.

729 S. Acadian Thruway ♦ Baton Rouge, LA 70806 ♦ Phone (225) 389-9429 ♦ Fax (225) 387-0309 ♦ Email [larhc@aol.com](mailto:larhc@aol.com) ♦ [www.larhc.org](http://www.larhc.org)

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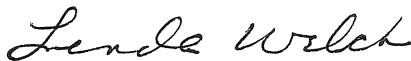
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Linda Welch, President and CEO  
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Madison Parish  
Morehouse General  
North Caddo Medical

Oakdale Community  
Pointe Coupee General  
Richardson Medical  
Richland Parish  
Riverland Medical  
Riverside Medical  
Sabine Medical  
South Cameron Memorial

Springhill Medical  
St. Charles Parish  
St. Helena Parish  
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Tri-Ward General  
Union General  
West Carroll Memorial  
Winn Parish

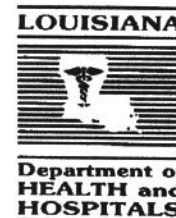
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Roxane A. Townsend, M.D.  
Deputy Secretary



# LOUISIANA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

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JOHN A. MATESSINO  
PRESIDENT & CEO

9521 BROOKLINE AVENUE ♦ BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70809-1431  
(225) 928-0026 ♦ FAX (225) 923-1004 ♦ [www.lhaonline.org](http://www.lhaonline.org)

May 3, 2007

Roxanne Townsend, Deputy Secretary  
Department of Health & Hospitals  
628 North 4<sup>th</sup> St.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dear Roxanne Townsend:

The Louisiana Hospital Association (LHA) is pleased to submit this letter of support for the Rural Health Care Pilot Program. The LHA fully supports this submission of a grant application to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as it will assist our hospitals in improving their access to Health Information Technology.

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Sincerely,

John Matessino, President  
Louisiana Hospital Association



May 3, 2007

Roxanne Townsend, Deputy Secretary  
Department of Health & Hospitals  
628 North 4<sup>th</sup> St.  
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